

HACKER'S CREEK JOURNAL



Hacker's Creek Pioneer Descendants, Inc.
A Historical & Genealogical Society of Central West Virginia

Volume XXXV Issue 1, 2016-2017

ISBN : 0893-1615

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Hacker's Creek Journal is published biannually in March and October depending upon availability of material to publish by the Hacker's Creek Pioneer Descendants.

Manuscript Submissions

While electronic stories submitted by e-mail is preferable, other typed material may be submitted. Material for publication should be e-mailed and addressed to Journal Editor and mailed to HCPD at the address below. Material must be received by mid-February for April issue and mid-August for October issue.

Membership

For HCPD membership information, see the Membership Form in back of Journal.

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Hello Everyone,

This is my one of my favorite jobs in all the different jobs I have had through the years. Coming to work here is like searching for treasure every day. Some days we find a jewel and some days we come up empty handed. I never know what may be uncovered. Certainly, each day is not hum-drum or boring. We love being able to help the person to find connections to a family that lived in a different era.

The people or volunteers that work here are amazing, too. They are always willing to help the researchers who call or come through our front door find valuable information. I know we have helped many of you through the years, and some we could not help as we would liked. You may want to check back with us, because we are daily adding family records to our library.

We appreciate you! We have had many new members join and that excites us. This shows we are going in the right direction and getting our presence known. We each must preserve, record and share our amazing history. Sometimes we get very busy here and maybe a bit sidetracked, so please just jog our memory or poke us to remind us we need to follow up with you.

Gathering is in August! Hope to see many of you in-person then.

Thanks
Patty

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 6th will be the **SCHOOLCRAFT** Family memorial event. Hacker's Creek will be presented and will offer a spaghetti luncheon afterwards at the library. The family will be hosting speakers and sharing family stories. The library will remain open for anyone who would like to research or share family ties with the **SCHOOLCRAFT** Family.

May 13th the **BUTCHER** Family will be hosting an event and coming to the library for a luncheon. You should have gotten an email telling about the upcoming event.

The Gathering is planned for August 10th -13th. We will have more info available on our website and the registration forms in a few weeks.



From the Desk of the President

Dear Members:

Spring seems to have come a little early this year, which is a blessing to those of us who may not like the cold weather. The warmer weather has motivated many to begin mowing their lawns and planting flowers. The HCPD Library is no different. We're already mowing grass here and enjoying the spring blossoms and watching the various trees blooming, as well. Spring has always been seen as a new beginning, often precipitated by the unexpected, but as genealogist we learn to roll with the unexpected.

The unexpected loss of our President, Mary **CREAMER** precipitated my accepting the role as President. As many of you are aware, Mary passed away in February 2017 from an apparent cardiac incident. When I heard about Mary's passing, it was a complete shock to me, but also to others who knew and loved Mary. She knew what she was doing -- creating policies, organizing events, and mediating discussions. In some cases, she worked her magic behind the scenes without anyone knowing what she did and without feeling the need to advertise it. Above all, Mary was someone who always finished what she started. She will be missed.

My accepting the role as President precipitated locating a new Vice President to take the position vacated by me for my new responsibilities. A Board Meeting was held and nominations sought. After some discussion, Junior **COULTER** was named the new Vice President. We welcome Junior, a hard worker who has already begun arrangements for The Gathering in August 2017.

WATCH FOR REGISTRATION FORMS FOR THE GATHERING.

I want to express my appreciation to Patty, who hosted a series of three Thursday evening Genealogy Workshops in the latter part of March 2017 and the beginning of April 2017, which were highly successful.

I look forward to seeing you all at The Gathering on August 10-13, 2017.

Doris **DEAN**

HCPD President



A Letter from the Editor

This issue begins my 35th year as the editor of your Journal. While the task has had its ups and downs over the years, the time has generally been an interesting one. Oh, there were a couple of tough times. . . such as when Chuck **GILCHRIST**, my husband, who was also president of our organization, passed away in 1998. and the passing of long-time board members Raydine **WESTFALL TEICHEIRA** and Maurice **ALLMAN**. But there have also been good time too – our move to the Weston Colored School and then to the building adjacent to WVU-Jackson’s Mill. Perhaps, though, one of our biggest achievements was the move into our present home at the Horner School in 1998. It hardly seems possible, next year 2018, will mark our 20th anniversary in this building. But, none of these are my reason for writing this letter to you.

As those of you who have been a member for some time know, this is one of the few letters I have written to you. . . except to urge you to submit articles for the Journal <G>

However, this time is far different. While those of you who keep up with us via e-mail know, HCPD has been rocked with the sudden passing of our president, Mary **SLEETH CREAMER**, on February 18; and then, just a couple of weeks later, the loss of charter member Boyd “Rocky” **SWISHER**.

The passing of these two fine people, along with that of Helen **KYER FEST** were personal losses to me too.

Mary was my cousin as well as a hard worker on behalf of HCPD.

Helen’s knowledge of plants and her work for a now-closed nursery outside of Bridgeport helped me in the early 1990s when I undertook the building of gold-fish pond. I remember her putting on her waders and going to a nearby creek to gather some tadpoles for me.

Rocky? Well, he and his partner, the late Patty **CROUCH**, hosted Chuck **GILCHRIST** and I at Rocky’s cabin home, Swisher Hollow, in Randolph County on more than one occasion. In fact, one time we were there for almost three weeks while I worked on a Civil War book that I still haven’t finished. (I must quit procrastinating and get that job done!) He also welcomed my second spouse, the late Daril **STALNAKER**, as well as my current husband, John **DEFAZIO** at the cabin as well as at his Harrisonburg, VA, home. It was always a pleasure to spend time with Rocky wherever we happened to be. The these people, I say, “Rest in Peace, Dear Friends.”

I know that the 2017 annual gathering of HCPD will not be quite the same without Mary and Rocky there; but . . . being privy to the plans for the 2017 Gathering under the direction of our now new Vice President J. R. **COULTER**, I can assure you that HCPD is still in God’s Good Hands and I believe that the 2017 Gathering will be one of the best we have had in several years.

With love –

Joy **GILCHRIST STALNAKER DEFAZIO**

Mary Sleeth Creamer

Mary Creamer

Mary Sleeth Creamer, 73, of Morgantown, passed away quietly at home on Feb. 18, 2017.



**Mary
Creamer**

Mary was born in Harlingen, Texas, on April 29, 1943, the middle daughter of Dr. Clark K. Sleeth and Nellie Strouss Sleeth.

Mary retired from Giant Eagle several years ago, where she was proud to be elected as the union steward. She worked diligently for the union members during her tenure. All of her former coworkers held Mary in the highest esteem.

She was heavily involved with the Morgantown High School class of 1961, and also remained as active as possible with her college sorority, Delta Delta Delta, as an alumni advisor after receiving her BA degree from WVU in 1965.

A loving wife, mother and grandmother, Mary's absence has left a huge empty space in the hearts of many.

Mary is survived by her husband of 39 years, Jerry L. Creamer; and two sisters, Ann Sleeth Shaffer and her husband and sons, of Charlottesville, Va., and Jane Sleeth Fulton and her sons, of Mount Pleasant,

S.C. She is remembered by her own two children, James A. Kent III, of Morgantown, and Clark Benjamin Creamer, of Fairmont; and a grandson, Evan Hudson Creamer, also of Fairmont.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her first spouse, James A. Kent Jr., and a nephew, Kendall Shaffer.

Genealogy had long been her driving passion, a pursuit which led her to join the Hackers Creek Pioneer Descendants genealogical library. Eventually, serving as president of the board of directors, Mary always worked tirelessly with the ongoing events and activities of the group.

Mary was a gracious, kind, giving person whom many regarded as their own special friend. As a final act of giving, Mary donated her remains to the Human Gift Registry at the WVU School of Medicine. As a result, in lieu of burial services, a celebration of Mary will be held at a later date. Interested individuals are encouraged to contact the family directly for details.

Donations in her name may be made to the Hackers Creek Pioneer Descendants, 45 Abbotts Run Road, Horner, WV 26372.

Boyd Lantz “Rocky” Swisher



Boyd Lantz “Rocky” **SWISHER**, 90, of 1747 Massanetta Springs Road, Harrisonburg, Rockingham County, Va., departed this life Tuesday, March 28, 2017, at his residence.

Boyd was born Tuesday, May 25, 1926, at Elkins, W.Va and was the fifth child of the late Francis Columbus and Flossie Kate **LANTZ SWISHER**. He was the grandson of Ashford Ervin and Berthenia Bird **HINZMAN SWISHER** and Charles **JASPER** and Eunice **TETER LANTZ** and great-grandson of John Rinehart and Jane **TURNER SWISHER**.

On May 9, 1944, at San Diego, Calif., he married Marie Scott **MARSTILLER** of Elkins, W.Va., who preceded him in death on January 12, 1990. He is survived by their daughters, Sheryl Lynn **HUFFMAN** and husband, Roy Lee **HUFFMAN** Jr. and Terry Dawn **RICHARDSON** all of Harrisonburg, Va. and Donna Maria **KISLING** and husband, Earl R. **KISLING** of Fayetteville, Ark.; his sister, Kathryn Frances **KOERNER**, of Middletown, Va.. He leaves behind nine grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren and a great-great granddaughter.

He is preceded in death by his parents; a daughter, Vicki Ellen **SWISHER**; two granddaughters, Brenda Sue

MARTINEZ and Sharon **COMBS SHULER**; his siblings, Murl Edward **SWISHER**, Elwood Denver **SWISHER** and Mildred Louise **PLEASANT**.

Mr. **SWISHER** served in the U.S. Merchant Marines during and after World War II. He arrived in Harrisonburg with his family in October of 1951 and opened Grove Furniture Store. Later he was the store manager for Goodyear Rubber Company in the same building that now houses Glen’s Fair Price Store.

In 1963, he entered business for himself, incorporating under the name Radiant Fuel Company. In 1970 he opened the first “self-service” gasoline stations in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County, trading under the name “Wonder Gas” and selling his gasoline for 29 and 9 tenth cents per gallon. By 1972, he was a full-line distributor for Mobil Oil Corporation while supplying many stations and selling their home heating oil for 13 and 9 tenth cents per gallon. In addition, he operated Rocky’s Auto Exchange and Sunset Auto Parts.

Mr. **SWISHER** was a member of Asbury United Methodist Church in Harrisonburg. In 1952, he became a charter member of Harrisonburg Moose Lodge #1686 and later joined the Elks Lodge #450. He is a Master Mason (AF and AM) in good standing, a Sir Knights Templar, a member of Scottish Rite of Freemasonry and past President (1971) of the Valley Shrine Club, under the jurisdiction of ACCA Temple in Richmond, Va.

In 1985, he was a sustaining member of the Republican National Committee of President Regan’s Republican task force and a member of the United States Senatorial Small Business Advisory Board. Boyd was a member of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, serving in the Virginia Society SAR Fort Harrison Chapter and a lifetime member of Hacker’s Creek Pioneer Descendants, a genealogist group near Weston, W.Va.

Upon his retirement in 1983, he occupied his time as an avid genealogist and enjoyed hunting, fishing, and traveling overseas.

In June of 1987, he graduated from “University of Hard Knocks” at Philippi, W.Va., where he received his diploma from U.S. Senator Jennings **RANDOLPH** of West Virginia and U.S. Senator

Wendell **FORD** of Kentucky.

The family will receive friends from 6-8 p.m. Friday evening at Kyger Funeral Home, 3173 Spotswood Trail in Harrisonburg.

Funeral services, officiated by the Rev. Dr. Stephen D. **HAY**, were held 1 p.m. Saturday, April 1, 2017, in the funeral home chapel. Entombment followed at Eastlawn Memorial Gardens with military rites by the Dayton American Legion Post #27.

Helen Grethel Kyer Fest



Helen Grethel **KYER-FEST**, 91, of Bridgeport, passed away March 18, 2017. She was born in Weston on August 29, 1925, the daughter of the late John H. **KYER** and Grethel M. **BUCKBEE-KYER**.

In addition to her parents, Helen was preceded in death by her husband, Fred W. **FEST** Jr., and sisters, Geraldine (Gerry) Kiddy and Lucille Weber.

She liked to travel, work in the yard and research her family roots. She also was never afraid to try anything. Her biggest joy was when her kids would come together at home for a visit.

Surviving are three sons, Fred W. **FEST** III and wife, , of Greenwood, MO; David P. **FEST** and wife, Susie of Bridgeport, WV; Charles E. **FEST** and wife, Diana, of Severane, CO; a daughter Barbara A. **FEST** of Nebo, KY; four granddaughters and one great-granddaughters as well as a brother John H. **KYER**, Jr., and wife, Beverly, of Parker, CO.

Friends and family called at the Ford Funeral Home, 215 East Main Street, Bridgeport, WV, Thursday, March 23, 2017, from 3-7 p.m. and Friday, March 24, 2017, from 10 a.m. until the 11 a.m. service, with Rick **CURTIS** presiding. Interment was at the Weston Masonic Cemetery. Condolences may be expressed at fordfuneralhomes.com.



Elzie Newton JASPER

Elzie Newton **JASPER**, 93, passed away on January 31, 2017. Born in Sugar Grove, AR, he was the son of the late Porter and Wanda **ILIFF JASPER**. He was retired from the U.S. Navy, (20 years), as a Chief Builder. During WWII he served aboard the USS Caperton in the Pacific. The USS Caperton saw 13 major battles in the Pacific and accompanied the USS Missouri into the Tokyo Bay, Japan for the signing of the Peace Treaty September 2, 1945. **JASPER** was also the retired owner of **JASPER's** Construction Company. He was a member of Great Neck Baptist Church.

Left to cherish his memory: his wife of 60 years, Jean **CONLEY JASPER**, a daughter, Debra Lynn **STEPHENSON** and a grandson, Christopher L. **STEPHENSON**.

The funeral was held at Hollomon-Brown Funeral Home, Great Neck Chapel by Rev. Todd **HOLT** on Friday, Feb. 3, 2017.

Entombment was held at Princess Anne Memorial Park Mausoleum, Virginia Beach, VA.

HCPD'S NEW PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT



The passing of HCPD's president, Mary **SLEETH CREAMER**, resulted in the vice president, Doris **DEAN**, moving into the president's position and the election of a new person to fill Doris' position as well as the vacancy on the board. None of those on the board wanted to serve as vice president; consequently, a new person was needed to fill the vice president's position.

The major responsibility of the vice president, in addition to filling in for the president in his/her absence, is coordinating HCPD's annual gathering.

Junior **COULTER III**, who was already a volunteer for many projects of the organization and the husband of HCPD's secretary Elaine **ALLMAN COULTER**, agreed to assume the responsibility and was duly elected to the position. In fact, Junior and Elaine first met during a research trip at HCPD. Junior was born in Weston and has lived in there and in Buckhannon and Nacogdoches Texas. He was employed by Moore Business forms and is now retired. He is researching names: **COULTER, NUTT, LOSH** and **CLAYPOOL**.

Junior's first responsibility this year is the organizing of the gathering in August.

His e-mail address is: JRCOULTER43@gmail.com



MARY GLASS NAMED HISTORY HERO

HCPD member Mary **GLASS** was nominated by our organization as a West Virginia History Hero for 2017. She was recognized on March 9th at West Virginia History Day which was held at the Capital in Charleston, WV.

Mary has served as a volunteer for history consultant at the LDS Church in Upshur County and since 2012 a volunteer indexer and arbitrator for historical records for Family Search. She is always willing to help out at our Hacker's Creek Library. She has a wealth of historical and genealogical knowledge and is always willing to teach and share with others

HCPD TOUTED BY NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

In February HCPD was featured in a "50 States of Preservation" article by the National Endowment for the Humanities. This feature was part of a series in which NEH is touring small and mid-sized museums, libraries, historical societies, and other repositories across the country to show how they are helping to preserve the nation's cultural heritage. The article was also in response to a \$5800 grant HCPD received. The \$5800 NEH grant was active February 1, 2011 thru December 31, 2012. The stated purpose was: "The hiring of a preservation consultant to develop a plan for improved storage of the museum's collection in a climate-controlled environment. The collection contains books, periodicals, photographs, maps, newspapers, paintings, and county records documenting the history, genealogy, and traditions of the Central West Virginia area. The Hacker's Creek Pioneer Descendants operates the Central West Virginia Genealogy and History Library and Museum. The collections have currently outgrown the available space. A plan is being developed to build an addition to the current building for

the purpose of housing the collections. This Preservation Assessment will provide information concerning the size and type of space and storage needed which will be a resource for the development of the building plans.” Although the grant is now complete, no further action has been taken by the organization (The story continues on the next page)

50 States of Preservation: Hacker's Creek Pioneer Descendants in Horner, West Virginia

FEBRUARY 6, 2017 | BY LEAH WEINRYB GROHSGAL



In this March 1955 photo, Weston Lions Club advertises their broom sale, the proceeds from which benefit persons with vision problems. (Image property of Hacker's Creek Pioneer Descendants.

A number of other photographs from HCPD's collection were incorporated in the article. Since there is not enough room here to include them, our readers are invited to visit the NEH website <https://www.neh.gov/divisions/preservation/featured-project/50-states-preservation-hackers-creek-pioneer-descendants-in-horner-west-virginia> to view them.

<>

This feature is part of a series NEH calls “50 States of Preservation,” in which they are touring small and mid-sized museums, libraries, historical societies, and other repositories across the country to show how they are helping to preserve the nation’s cultural heritage.

John **HACKER** was the first permanent European settler in Lewis County, West Virginia, when he moved west in the 1770s seeking land on the banks of the Monongahela River. Generations of settlers followed, and today, [Hacker's Creek Pioneer Descendants](#) (HCPD) operates the [Central West Virginia Genealogy and History Library and Museum](#), based in the town of Horner, to document their history. After years of gathering materials about West Virginian history, the library's collections were in dangerous disarray and had outgrown their available space in a former three-room frame school house. An [NEH award](#) funded a preservation assessment to help the library save these materials by storing and caring for them properly.

The library's collections are a lively point of interest in the community, outgrowing their original facility, moving into an addition, and inspiring a vibrant Web presence connecting residents with their past. Executive Director Patty **LESONDAK** emphasized the importance of the NEH-funded preservation project to library efforts to preserve their collections and amplify interest from the public. "The program educated library staff on the proper storage of vintage items," said **LESONDAK**. "The addition is very helpful in attracting visitors and most people are amazed at the material we have to offer."

Beginning in 1982 with just 92 members and a collection of two notebooks, the [Central West Virginia Genealogy and History Library and Museum](#) now contains more than 15,000 books, large periodical and obituary collections, over 6,000 catalogued photographs, thousands of cataloged manuscripts, hundreds of audiovisual items, and numerous maps, drawings, yearbooks, and county record books going back to the 1700s. The library also has 500 glass plate negatives of families and members of the community, the work of two early local photographers, Archie Ellis and William E. Carpenter. Finally, a large collection of artifacts and memorabilia donated by the Stonewall Jackson Heritage Arts and Crafts Jubilee Organization, now dissolved, includes wood carvings, woven and crocheted items, handmade quilts, porcelain and pewter plates, and handwoven baskets,.

With support from NEH's Division of Preservation and Access, HCPD was able to hire Charleston archivist Fredrick H. Armstrong, who recommended ways to preserve and safely display these materials. His advice led the library to separate archival materials from the rest of the collection, construct a room accessible only to library staff to provide secure storage, store materials on appropriate metal shelving and archival boxes, and catalog and label previously unprocessed parts of the collection. The library also used the NEH award to acquire two glass cases to display items from the Stonewall Heritage Arts and Crafts Collection.

These activities helped rescue a collection documenting the history, genealogy, and traditions of Central West Virginia, focusing on the counties that were the first foothold of European settlers in the Trans-Allegheny region of old Virginia. Now the books, pictures, and objects are available to anyone interested in their personal and family history and the area's culture and past. Genealogists, authors, and newspaper reporters use the books and articles, and the HCPD also displays items at the History Day competition for West Virginia students held annually in the Capitol Rotunda in Charleston, , where they are also viewed by state legislators and the public. The library's materials have also been used in schools and educational programs including Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H, heritage societies, Elderhostel, and community service organizations.

*In every state, NEH supports organizations that preserve humanities collections. Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions (PAGs) fund projects that help safeguard photographs, letters, documents, prints, moving images, sound recordings, maps, drawings, artworks, textiles, furniture, and artifacts, making them available for future generations. These collections help researchers, educators, and members of the public better understand the complex stories of the various cities, towns, and tribal groups that make up our nation. Since 2000, NEH has made nearly 2,000 Preservation Assistance Grants to small and mid-sized organizations to preserve and care for their humanities collections. In all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, PAG awards have funded preservation assessments, purchase of shelving, environmental monitoring equipment, and preservation supplies, and training for staff. Organizations in all states and U.S. territories are eligible to apply, and the program encourages applications from those new to NEH. **The next application deadline Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions is May 2, 2017.** If you have any questions about this grant program, please contact us at preservation@neh.gov or 202-606-8570*

In case you missed it: The following story appeared in the February 8th issue of the Weston Democrat, Lewis County's weekly newspaper:

Family and state history at your fingertips in Lewis County



Staff photo by Kailee **GALLAHAN**

The Central West Virginia Genealogy History Library is located at 45 Abbotts Run Road in Horner. The library is operated and maintained by the Hacker's Creek Pioneer Descendants Society.

The Central West Virginia Genealogy and History Library has been serving the public for family and history research since 1982.

The Hacker's Creek Pioneer Descendants Society operates and maintains the facility, which holds more than 5,000 books including over 1,000 family histories. The library also contains large maps, photos and a manuscript collection, to assist with researching.

"Many people are beginning to research their families and area history more," Director Patty **LESONDAK** said. "This is where a lot of people start. We help to reconnect people with family members and their roots. The library services individuals from Lewis, Harrison, Monongalia, Barbour, Randolph, Upshur, Gilmer, Ritchie, Braxton, Marion, Doddridge, Nicholas and Webster counties, as well as a number of visitors from out of state."

LESONDAK added that the facility has a number of books, clothing and souvenir items for sale to support the library.

Since the Hacker's Creek Pioneer Descendants Society is a non-profit organization, they are able to operate through occasional grants, volunteers, and dues and donations from members and friends.

"We offer a library membership for \$40 a year per household and members have full access to our website, an email contact list and more research available online," she said.

The library hosts a full schedule of activities throughout the year including tours and seminars, heritage demonstrations, the Gathering of Members and Friends each August and many more monthly activities.

"We hold a soup event each February in conjunction with the Super Bowl, a spaghetti dinner in March, a spring yard sale in April, a baked steak dinner in October, and a Veterans Day Luncheon in November," **LESONDAK** said. "We feel that getting the community involved is really important and we want people to know what we do here."

Daily operations and events are run by library volunteers.

Betty **NICHOLSON** volunteers at the library and said the records keep the history of Lewis County and surrounding areas alive.

"These are resources for families to find their roots and search their heritage," she said. "We focus mainly on the history of Lewis County and the areas surrounding but we do have some information from nearby states."

While trying to be a large part of the community, **NICHOLSON** said the library and the volunteers believe that local people don't realize what they offer.

We are right in their backyard and we invite anyone and everyone to come and look around," she said. "You don't have to be a member and we would love to show you what we offer here at the library."

"We just want people to know what we are doing here," **LESONDAK** said. "We try to open up the doors to the community as much as we can to get people interested in local history."

The library also hosts women's groups, 4-H and other organizations for group meetings. In the future, **LESONDAK** said she believes the library will start hosting genealogy and research classes for individuals interested in learning how to start and research their roots. She said they hope to have something available by March.

LESONDAK said she also sees a change in communication and technology in the near future for the library as they begin to utilize their website more.

The library is open 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and on Friday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday. **LESONDAK** said patrons are encouraged to call ahead for library closing due to inclement weather at (304) 269-7091.

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GROVES Merchants of Lewis County

By Darrell GROVES

The **GROVES** family migrated from Maysville, Hardy County, according to family history, in 1856. Their mother, Fanny **MARQUESS GROVES**, had died and the oldest son, Isaac Marin **GROVES**, apparently inherited the family farm. Two older sisters had married and moved West. Margaret "Peggy" **GROVES HAWK** moved to Palmer, Christian Co., Illinois and Rebeca A. **GROVES GOODNIGHT** settled in Boone Co., Indiana. Sons, Marcus and Alexander **GROVES** remained in the Maysville area. Sons John and General George Washington **GROVES** decided to migrate West. They arrived in Jacksonville, Lewis County and, according to family their wives were anticipating the birth of children. If that is true, they arrived in Lewis County in 1857 when Nancy, John's daughter, was born 30 May 1858 and George's son, Samuel Brooks, was born 03 Mar 1858. Many of George's descendants settled in Braxton, Calhoun and Gilmer Counties. John's children remained in the Red Lick area of Lewis County.

George Washington **GROVES** operated a grist mill in Lewis County. I have a feed sack from his business.

John's grandchildren became general store merchants. Frances "Frank" Marion **GROVES** operated a store at Peterson Siding, his daughter-in-law, Sylvia May **DUNCAN** and Lloyd Hayward **GROVES** operated his store until it was closed.

Marsha Columbia **GROVES FOSTER** and my grandfather George I. **GROVE/S** operated a store in Homewood Addition until the depression that followed the end of WW I and the 1918 flu epidemic. They lost their store and returned to Red Lick.

John Summers **GROVE/S** started his career as a merchant at Peterson Siding when he was given the store by my grandmother's (Daisy Lee **WELLEN**) aunt, Mary M. **SUMMERS**, in return for Aunt Ruby and Uncle John taking care of her for life. He later moved to Homewood and began **GROVE's** Store. When I was a child he and my Uncle Vaden **GROVE** operated the store before my father Thomas Edward **GROVE/S** were partners in the business until about 1954.

[The family name was changed from **GROVES** to **GROVE** by reasons unknown to my generation or the younger siblings. Either Granddad or Uncle John changed the spelling of the name]

During WW II was the apex of the **GROVE** store saga. Uncle Vaden and Aunt Lula **GAY** operated their store in McGuire Park and one in Jane Lew. Aunt Ada and Uncle Wallace Watson operated their store in Roanoke. Uncle John was operating a store on West Second Street and he and dad operated a store in Butchersville and the one in Homewood. Uncle Ross **KEITH**, husband of Almach Blanch **GROVE**, operated a feed store with Uncle Vaden.

After my father withdrew from the business, Uncle John, my cousins Bill, Eleanor, Carolyn and Helen continued the business as Grove's Grocery in Bendale.

On the next page you will find the recipe for the favorite Groves Market Ham Salad.

GROVES MARKET HAM SALAD

(Recipe of Mary Helen (HINTER) GROVES made by her at the store 1970-2003)

The following meat ingredients are approximate (give or take a few ounces)

¼ lb All-meat bologna
½ lb pickle and pimento loaf
½ lb chopped ham
½ lb Virginia Baked Ham

Grind all of the above items to a fine consistency. Mary Helen used an old fashioned sausage grinder.

Add:

2 oz jar chopped pimentos

1/3 c. pineapple juice

¾ c. Miracle Whip Salad Dressing

½ c. Sweet Pickle Relish

Mix all items well and add or delete ingredients to your personal taste. This Ham Salad can be covered and stored in your refrigerator. If the consistency become too stiff, add more Miracle Whip Salad Dressing

HENRY WINEMILLER FAMILY PROPOSED MONUMENT UPSHUR COUNTY, WV

Henry and Ellenor **NORRIS WINEMILLER** arrived from Maryland to make a home near the present area of Slap Camp of French Creek, WV. Nothing is known of their final resting place or a marker locating them or some of their children.

In order to preserve this part of our family's heritage and to honor them, we are planning to erect a monument in their memory. The cost of a monument is approximately \$900 and we are seeking funds from family and relatives or anyone that would be glad to help us reach this goal. Any amount is well appreciated.

Upon achieving our goal, the monument will be placed in the Slab Camp of French Creek Cemetery where we know is the greatest possibility of their burial and which is near where they resided.

An account was established some time ago for donations. Presently it has \$196. All donations can be sent to **WINEMILLER** Reunion, c/o George **LONG**, 2888 Seng Run Rd., French Creel, WV 26218. You can write on the back of the check and designate "for deposit only" and put "for Winemiller Reunion" or "monument" in the comments. Please be sure to include your mailing address so we can acknowledge your contribution.

THANKS IN ADVANCE FOR ANY DONATIONS TO THIS PROJECT!

THE WILLIS E. WESTFALL FAMILY

By Don SCHAUB



Because of inadequate record-keeping during America's frontier days, tracing ancestors can get a bit murky at times.

It is well established that Willis **WESTFALL** was the son of Granville Dayton **WESTFALL**, that Granville was the son of Watson **WESTFALL** and that Watson was the son of George **WESTFALL**. It's also generally accepted that George was the son of Zachariah **WESTFALL**, who was born about 1765. From that point back, there is some difference of opinion, and readers can make their own choice between family tradition and the writings of genealogists who claim to have the verification of written records.

Information distributed by the family of Ira Burton **WESTFALL** (Willis **WESTFALL**'s brother) says that Zachariah was the son of a Jacob Westfall, who was the son of a James **WESTFALL** who settled his large family near the town of Beverly, Virginia, (now West Virginia) in 1772. The ancestors of this group of **WESTFALL**s, according to family tradition, came

to America from the Westphalia district of Germany and settled in the Germantown area of Pennsylvania. Similar information can be found in a lengthy newspaper story on the **WESTFALL**s that appeared in a 1934 issue of the Clarksburg WV *Exponent-Telegram*.

On the other hand, **WESTFALL** Research, a book published in 1985 by Genevieve **LENTZ**, who spent 1 year working on **WESTFALL** family history, shows that Zachariah **WESTFALL** was the son of Cornelius **WESTFALL**, who was the son of Abel **WESTPHAL**, who was the son of Johannes (John) **WESTPHAL**. And Johannes was the son of Jurian (George) **WESTPHAL**, believed to be the first **WESTFALL** to set foot in America and the last **WESTFALL** immigrant for 100 years. Probably born in the Rhine Valley of Germany, 13-year-old Jurian sailed from Texel Holland on June 6, 1642, and arrived on August 4, 1642, at the port of New Amsterdam, now New York City, after 61 days on the ocean aboard the Dutch sailing vessel, Den H_____

Once off the ship, Jurian "VAN VESTVAEL" was placed with the family of a Michael **JANSEN** and was required to work at the Jansen farm, located in the colony of Rensselaerwyck, a settlement up the Hudson River across from present day Albany NY. The settlement was established by Dutch Patroon Kilaen **VAN RENNELAER**, one of the founders of the Dutch West India Company.

In 1653 at age 24, Jurian left the Jansen farm and made his own home at Kingston on the Hudson River about 100 miles north of New Amsterdam. In 1654, he married Maria **JANSEN**, with whom he has six children, including the Johannes mentioned above in paragraph four.

The **WESTFALL** name is German and was given to those who lived in Westphalia, a name indicating people who lived "at the western clearing." Early records show various spellings of the family name, including: **VESTVAEL**, **WESTVAEL**, **WESTVAL**, **WESTFAUL**, **WESTPHAEL** and **WESTPHAL**. Sometime in the 1700s, the name **WESTPHAL** was changed to **WESTFALL**.

THE HOUSE OF GREAT-GRANDPA AND GREAT GRANDMA

by Leonard DAVIS



Reva, and Geneva **DAVIS**, with cousins Darlene, Charlotte, and Chuckie **KELLEY**, and I decided to go find the house that we had heard about but never seen. Always ready for a walk, Ricky and Spotty, the two beagle dogs, instantly awoke from a comfortable nap in the warm



Throughout our childhood, we inadvertently eavesdropped on adults talking of our great grandparents who many years earlier resided across the hill that was visible in the distance from the back of our house. We did not mean for our listening ears to be a negative issue, but since the conversation was not intended to be private, it was difficult to ignore what was being said. For the most part we paid scant attention since we were not sure where this mysterious place was and due to our young age it meant little to us. We had never been there, but as we got older our curiosity gained control and we wanted to see the site where our ancestors lived. In time we asked about the location and learned it was within walking distance from our house. Sunday, 11 February 1962, was a clear sunny day; and after church was over Ralph, Eva,

Reva, and Geneva **DAVIS**, with cousins Darlene, Charlotte, and Chuckie **KELLEY**, and I decided to go find the house that we had heard about but never seen. Always ready for a walk, Ricky and Spotty, the two beagle dogs, instantly awoke from a comfortable nap in the warm sunshine and began jumping about, bounding in circles, and begging to go along to the woods to satisfy their hunting instinct. With the girls jabbering and giggling noisily we walked up the path toward the barn and on to the head of the hollow “holler”, climbed the forested hill, crossed the fence at the top that defined the property line, and continued down the other woodsy side in the direction of Wolf Pen Run. In a matter of minutes, we arrived at the tree line, and the view of the sweeping landscape burst open like a theater curtain rapidly rising in front of an expectant audience to reveal a well-designed stage scene for a replay of an act similar to *Brigadoon*, a story in which a centuries old Scottish village of the same name reappears unchanged every 100 years for one day.

Momentarily, we wondered if perhaps we were enmeshed in a similar legend, but we saw no signs of life coming and going not even a wisp of smoke curling upward from the chimney. However, there persisted a sensitivity of kinship with relatives from a long gone generation, and we were invited to transcend a mystical drapery which defies the chronology of clocks and

calendars that separates then from now in order to view an earlier setting. To a doubting Thomas, such a tableau is deemed a figment of an overactive imagination, but to us it was a magical moment that surpassed sufficient definition, and it is regrettable if anyone is unable to take that small step into an alternative realm that discloses another dominion made possible through dreams, words, intuition, and emotions. These are actual worlds that coexist with the physical one, and the concept is valid and defensible. Children readily identify these places, but as adults we tend to eliminate and ignore their presence residing mostly in a physical sphere. More often the same feeling is experienced when a reader becomes absorbed in an intriguing plot from a favorite book expertly penned by a brilliant author. The writer acknowledges the capacity to maneuver such a time warp as a priceless gift that is accessible to anyone who is a lover of history, and the ability has immeasurable value. Moving onward our group entered a meadow comprised of rolling land with a stream that began nearby and sought the lowest elevation as it wended its way through the grassy field. Although in disrepair from years of neglect, standing in the distance was the abandoned hand hewn log house and rustic log barn where Marshall “Charlie” Wellington and Margaret Deborah **RAMSBURG LAW** lived at a time that stretched backward many years before our lives began. Pausing for a moment, it felt like we had unintentionally stumbled onto a brand new discovery, and our eyes were about to behold a day in the lives of our great grandparents and their children. Although the now deserted farm was well known to other people, it was completely new to us. We were not a part of that era, and the only way we got a foretaste of it was through the reminiscing we overheard from the adults who intermittently mentioned it unaware that young ears were listening to their conversation. Now we were permitted to view the primitive buildings and actually see where the walled structures stood and were elated to better know our great grandparents. In our subliminal minds, we were able to clearly visualize the happenings of an ordinary day in a family comprised of real people who had definite names.

As subsequent seasons passed and taking Allen along on those afternoon jaunts, Ralph, Eva, Reva, and Geneva were inexplicably drawn back for another look at the log edifice in an attempt to further their acquaintance with the spirit of the family who had resided in the legendary land of yore. At both times it was possible for our eyes to survey the blue sky filled with white puffy clouds and visually trace the ridge lines of the hill tops just as Great Grandma did as she stood relaxed in the open doorway, combed the depths of her remembrance, and composed a mental slide show of her family when she was a little girl. For the aging lady this was a nostalgic recollection when she recalled the stories told by her father Hamilton Jefferson **RAMSBURG** when in pre-civil war years his parents, Israel and Deborah **MICHAEL RAMSBURG**, brought their family to the Lewis County community from Frederick County, MD. Stored in the mind of everyone is an unpublished volume containing an endless number of pages that archive the images of a life time beginning at birth and progressing to the present. All people including Great Grandmother are able to only give an abbreviated description of those private scenes that are recalled by a familiar sound, smell, sight, touch, or emotion. Unfortunately, the emotions are sometimes filled with sorrow and are seldom talked about, but others are happy and bring a smile to the face of the dreamer. Trying very hard, words are inadequate to fully paint the picture for others to see.

The **RAMSBURG** men were millers and millwrights and worked at both the **JACKSON** and **LIGHTBURN** Mills. Presently (2016) the **RAMSBURG** and Michael lineage can still be connected to the people of the same name whose progenitors remained behind, and now their descendants continue to reside throughout the Frederick County environs. After living in

Berkeley Springs for many years, it came as an unexpected revelation to me when I learned that the Michael and **RAMSBURG** families of Morgan County, WV, that I knew so well shared ancestry with me.

Just as the **DAVIS** kids had often done in their creek, the **LAW** children most likely played in the shallow run enthralled by the clear fluid trickling over slippery rocks that provided one segment in a broader ecosystem for the large and small wildlife that came to drink the life sustaining water.

Several years later in April 1984, son, Craig **DAVIS** and I went to visit the site where his great great grandparents lived, but we drove up Wolf Pen Run Road in our red Ford pickup truck instead of climbing the hill as our group did twenty two years earlier. Although, no one had lived there for many years, but each spring without fail the yellow daffodil bulbs pushed new stems and leaves above ground and continued to bloom in order to celebrate the season just as they did when Great Grandparents lived in the aged, log house. On this day the elegant plants dedicated to beautifying the surroundings were standing tall and resolute and waiting patiently for us to come to call. No one told them company was coming but somehow due to an unexplainable aptitude they knew the well-kept secret. Conceivably Great Grandma's spirit told them the news and warned them to be on their best behavior. At last they saw the two of us approaching the gate, and their vibrant golden faces excitedly swayed from side to side in the fragrant spring breeze and waved a gesture of welcome as they soaked up the warm sunshine. Using a distinctive ingenuity like our group did in 1962, Craig and I were captivated by an ethereal portrait of the **LAW** family and could thereby visualize father, mother, brothers, and sisters at home in the log house, working the fields, tending the crops, caring for livestock, running errands, and performing sundry chores that were a routine part of their daily activity. Craig with his proclivity for exploration was thrilled to wander through the open field, and although the people were absent and the buildings now a pile of rubble their remains were unfaltering in their determination to hold on to their position as long as possible even though they were destined to lose the long hard-fought struggle. It was sad to think that perhaps we were the last descendants to pay a visit to Craig's great great grandparents, Marshall Wellington "Charlie" and Margaret Deborah **RAMSBURG LAW**.

Great Grandpa Marshall **LAW** had a nickname "Charlie" that he was known by. No one ever addressed him by his correct name. It is challenging to recognize any phonetic connection to the spelling and pronunciation to either Marshall or Wellington. Whenever anyone asked about the reason for the name, the answer was consistently, "I don't know, but that is what he was always called." Regardless of the origin, one realizes that such titles can be assigned for any number of whims whether they make sense or not, and their derivation remains forever shrouded in secret. It seems probable that a story was appended to his label, but at this point the legend will most likely never be told. Delving a bit deeper into the mystery, perchance Great Grandpa did not know the explanation either! Far too often rich pieces of oral history such as this disappear with the person's passing on and are lost forever.

The photo below is the site of the **LAW** home in April 1984. The young man is the author's son Craig **DAVIS**, the great grandson of Marshall Wellington "Charlie" and Margaret Deborah **RAMSBURG LAW**. (The reader is urged to continue reading the story on the next page.)



When Craig and Leonard **DAVIS** visited the **LAW** home site in April 1984, the buildings had collapsed and were in total ruin with the remains of the house shown above in the heap of debris in the upper middle part of the picture. However, the yellow daffodils¹ continued to bloom putting forth their best effort to make the surroundings pretty with their radiant golden color just like they had done perennially since they were planted on an unknown day countless years ago by a now nameless person.

To many people the daffodil is a symbol of longevity since it continues to produce the colorful flowers even though there are no longer residents to care for them. Many former home sites are identifiable from the thriving flowers although all other traces of life are no longer visible. The once useful structures have disappeared, and the untiring plants remain as the final remnants of the bustling life that once called the deserted landscape home. To passersby, they call out a reminder of existence of life that used to be here and are relentless in their quest to retell an anthology of favorite stories. However, sorrowfully no one seems to care to listen to their intriguing tale until the family historians come by toting pencil and paper along with a camera to snap a picture as a tribute to the long gone progenitors who remain a link to former generations of ancestors. Although only one cluster of bloom shows in the picture, there were several tufts of daffodils scattered throughout the scene that would have been the yard when the Laws lived there. Once again the current botanical residents were ecstatic to have company paying a visit, and they nodded their gaudy heads in the breeze and bade us welcome.

1

HISTORY IN WESTERN LEWIS COUNTY

INTRODUCTION by Joy Gilchrist STALNAKER DeFazio

Although the communities of Linn and Pickle Street are as far west as one can go from the Lewis County seat of Weston, history has remained alive and well in that area thanks to the work and interest of two or three families who have lived there over the years. It is not this author's intent to add or detract from anyone who has lived there but rather to point out some exceptional preservation work that has passed down to us today thanks to the interest of these families.

First though, how about the name Pickle Street? Truth or not, here's what I've been told:

I lived there in the 1990s and I heard a couple of stories about its naming:

There was a log foot bridge crossing Leading Creek nearby. The schoolhouse was on the other side of the creek. A little girl was carrying her lunch box as she was going home. One of the ornery young boys who also attended the school was teasing her. She took a swing at him with her lunch box. . . it flew open. . . and the remains of her lunch (sauerkraut, aka pickled cabbage) fell into the street. Thus. . . Pickle Street. Regarding "pickle" being code for whiskey: I also heard that there was a country store there (not the one at Linn). The storekeeper kept a jar of dill pickles on the counter. Customers could buy one for a certain amount of money. When the customer threw the pickle out in the street, it was the signal to the storekeeper that the customer was wanting whiskey. I think both stories are pretty neat. . . regardless of the truth in either story.

I first learned about the neighboring families of the **BAILEY**s and the **KEYSER**s in western Lewis County in 1992. My late husband Chuck **GILCHRIST** and I came "home" to Lewis County in the fall of that year. We took up residence in the what was then known as "the haunted house" built by Julius **STOCKERT** shortly after the American Civil War. Although some told us that the house was "haunted", we found it kind of neat when we learned that the house was even written about in Patrick **GAINER**'s book *-Witches, Ghosts, and Signs: Folklore of the Southern Appalachians*. So what if we heard occasional thumps and bumps when there was no explanation for the noises? However, one happening did give us food for thought.

It was a warm spring day in 1992; it seems to me it was Mother's Day. My daughter Jane **GILCHRIST BOYER** had come for a visit from Millersburg, Ohio, bringing her two children, four-year-old Jenna **BOYER** and Charlie **BOYER**, aged three.

Shortly before noon, Jane put a cranky Charlie down for a nap in an upstairs bedroom whose only entrance was a door off the L-shaped back porch. An hour or so later, Chuck, Jane, Jenna and I were in the yard planning the construction of a gold-fish pond near the little run that eventually dumps into Leading Creek. About that time, Liz **BRADFORD**, now retired but then a teacher at Alum Bridge School stopped by on her way home from church. I don't remember the reason for her visit and that doesn't really matter for this story.



While we were visiting with Liz, Jane decided she had better go check on the sleeping Charlie. You can imagine her surprise when, on reaching the door to the room, she found the screen door was locked. No amount of jiggling could get the door open and, by now, Charlie was in the room crying from the noise outside. Grandpa Chuck quickly got the tools and was able to get the door unhooked. No, it wasn't a newer screen door; rather it was the old-fashioned kind, with a hook.

Instead of having an eye as the one pictured here, two construction staples were nailed into the door frame one above the other with a space about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch between. Furthermore the hook and staples were about 18 inches from the top of the screen. No way could the little boy have reached the hook and latched it himself; moreover, the two staples were so close that there was no way the hook could have bounced between the staples and locked the screen.

We were never able to come up with an explanation for this happening. . . except to blame it on the purported spirit referred to in **GAINER**'s book mentioned above. We called him Julius because, according to the **GAINER** story, he was of a bit of an angry man.

All of this has been a lead-in to a great deal of information and some interesting photos and stories provided by two HCPD members, the former Barbara **KAYSER** and her husband Mack **RICHARDS**.

While the photos and a couple of short descriptions arrived in my mailbox first, the real story here is that of Barbara's parents. I had the distinct pleasure of knowing them as neighbors. .And, while it may seem surprising to some, but not to those of us who have lived and worked in Lewis County over the years, another of HCPD's board members, Doris **DEAN**, has interacted with the **KAYSER** family for far longer than I. Our newest president, Doris **DEAN**, worked in an office that neighbored that of Barbara's dad, Kenneth **KAYSER**. And, while it may seem to have been only by chance, I think that the Maker of Us All, had His Hand in the relationships that developed over time and tied us all together as members of the Hacker's Creek Pioneer Descendants.

LIFE'S CHALLENGES

By Barbara Kayser



They were young and in love with high hopes for the future when they eloped to Monterey, Virginia. April 18, 1942 Kenneth Sterling **KAYSER** married Shada Gay **SIMMONS** and they had no idea the challenges and heartache --as well as the joys-- that lay ahead.

He was called to service in WWII and after basic training and a short leave, was shipped overseas. She stayed at the Alum Bridge farm with his parents, Evan and India **KAYSER** and very soon discovered she was pregnant with me. Shortly after I was born, Shada received word Kenneth (Mike to most of his friends) had been wounded in Italy. She did not know for several months how badly. After Kenneth was moved to Walter Reed hospital in Washington, D.C., Grandma **KAYSER** and my aunt, Elizabeth **KAYSER RAWSON** cared for me while Shada went to

Washington to see how badly Kenneth was injured. He had lost both legs, hearing in one ear and

had multiple shrapnel wounds. I can't imagine how devastated they must have felt. All their plans and dreams disappeared in an instant with one mortar shell.

Shada spent lots of time at Walter Reed during Kenneth's rehabilitation--the fitting of artificial legs, learning to walk--but he never gave up--and neither did she. All of the photos of them during that time show a happy, loving couple.

They tried farming when Kenneth returned home to Alum Bridge, but that just didn't work. He worked as an attaché for the West Virginia State Legislature, then as a supervisor for the West Fork Soil Conservation District. In April, 1960 he became Adjutant at the Soldiers Home at the Weston State Hospital, Department of Veterans Affairs, and there he found his calling. During his 27 year career there, he helped veterans receive the benefits they were entitled to, only retiring at age 70.

During all this, Shada stayed home and quietly supported and encouraged all his efforts. He was a member of I.O.O.F. Lodge, so she was an active member of the women's auxiliary, the Rebeccas. He was active in the Disabled American Veterans so she was a member of their auxiliary. However, their greatest commitment was to their God, Doyle Chapel Church and their family.

In 1952, miracle of miracles their son, Kenneth Richard **KAYSER** was born. You never saw more proud parents. Their greatest tragedy was when he died in a construction accident in 1983. Kenneth also lost his only brother that same year.

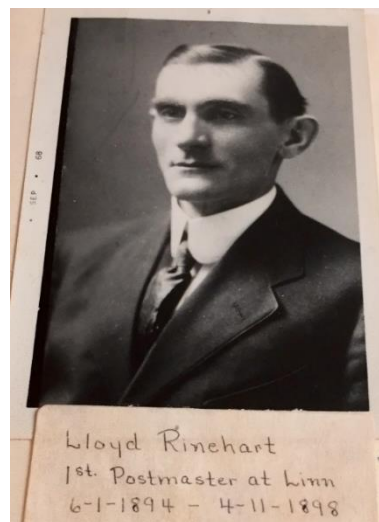
Through all their struggles, they remained positive and hopeful, sharing many happy times. The farm was the "homeplace" and all the relatives seemed to congregate there for food and fun and great stories. How I wish I had written them down. Kenneth hunted, fished and spent many an evening at Kline **SOMMERVILLE**'s store telling (and listening to) tall tales and playing Rook.

Shada loved getting together with family and friends to "make music". She played guitar and brother Doc played the fiddle and when they got together with friends, they made the rafters shake with music and laughter.

One of Kenneth's proudest moments was being named National Disabled Veteran of the Year by the DAV. Accompanied by cousins Crell and Bernice **KAYSER**, he and Shada proudly traveled to Phoenix, AZ to accept the award, with lots of sightseeing on the way there and back.

Kenneth died in 1993 and Shada continued to live at the Alum Bridge farm for another 11 years, then moved to North Carolina to live with me, her daughter. She was a kind and gentle soul, loved by all who met her. She died in 2016 at the age of 95.

I am so proud to be the daughter of two of the strongest, most compassionate people I ever knew. Their undying faith and perseverance has taught me that no matter what the challenge, with faith and hard work there is no obstacle that cannot be overcome. Just *NEVER GIVE UP!*



- from Catherine BAILEY collection

"Mike" **KAYSER** bought the old Linn post office when the **SOMERVILLEs** built the store with the post office attached. (Photo on next page) The post office now sits in the **KAYSER** backyard at Pickle Street. The original post office boxes and postmaster desk were still inside. Mike and Shada's daughter, Barbara **KAYSER RICHARDS** recently decided to clean up those pieces and use them. Her great uncle, Lloyd **RINEHART**, was the first postmaster at Linn. Barbara and her husband plan to make some repairs and paint the building later this spring.



This photo of the Linn Post Office (far left) when it stood at Linn. The photo was taken some time between Jan 1931 and March 1933. The photo below was taken at a later date.



On the move and at it's new home!!





MAIL BOXES AND POSTMASTER'S DESK FROM LINN POST OFFICE



THE KAYSER FAMILY

Kenneth **KAYSER**, Shada **KAYSER**, Nancy **RAWSON**,
 Joe **RAWSON**, Elizabeth **KAYSER RAWSON**,
 Nancy **RAWSON**, Joe **RAWSON**, Elizabeth **KAYSER RAWSON**,
 me (Barbara **KAYSER RICHARDS**) in Richard **KAYSER** 's arms, Grandpa Evan
KAYSER,
 Rosalie **KAYSER**, Grandma India **KAYSER**. This is the only photo I have of Grandma
 & Grandpa **KAYSER**'s children all together.



Starting in 1858 the tollhouse on Leading Creek on the Staunton-Parkersburg Turnpike was operated successively by Jacob **SNIDER**, his son John, Joe **OSBURN** and others, probably from the small log cabin in the middle of the structures in this picture. In 1877, Lemuel **BAILEY**, pictured below with his wife Hannah, built this three-story home, kept the Leading Creek post office for a time, and operated a hotel along with the toll house.





THE BAILEY SCHOOL

The earliest mention I have found was the **BAILEY** School 1889-1890, then the **KAYSER (KEYSER)** School from 1891-1905. It appears J.W. **FIDDLER** was the first teacher at the **KAYSER** School. Then there is a gap till 1919 when it appears to be the **BAILEY** School again. Hugh **KAYSER** (my great uncle) taught at the **KAYSER** School from 1893-1896 and then again from 1898-1899. Hugh was a very tall, handsome man and I believe this a photo of him with his class. Note the two children holding a book. (Photo from Catherine **BAILEY** Collection. Text by Barbara **KAYSER RICHARDS**)

THE BAILEY -KAYSER/KEYSER LINEAGE

Thanks to research a number of years ago by Guy **BAILEY**, the lineage of the Lewis County **BAILEY** family has been traced back to Stephen **BAILEY** who was born in 1620 or 1630 in Gloucester, England. This boggles the mind when we remember that in September of 1620, the *Mayflower* sailed from Plymouth, *England*, bound for the New World with 102 passengers. ... Stormy weather and navigational errors forced the Mayflower off course, and on November 21 the “Pilgrims” reached Massachusetts, where they founded the first permanent European Colony in what is now the United States. .. In 1660 Stephen married Ann **WALKER**, the widow of William **WALKER**. They were the parents of five children: Stephen, John, Anne, Mary and William. The second son, John, born in 1665, would become the progenitor of what is now the West Virginia branch of the **BAILEY** family.

His son, John Jr., b. 1685-1695, married Elizabeth **CARR** and resided in Fauquier County, VA.. One of their sons would be named Carr **BAILEY** who was born in Virginia in the 1720s. Carr chose Mary **MINTER** as his wife. Members of this family ultimately migrated to Harrison (now Lewis) County. As a consequence, the names of **BAILEY**, **CARR** and **MINTER** have been perpetuated through the decades to the present time in Central West Virginia.

Several descendants of the **BAILEY** family, not the least of which would be the late Guy **BAILEY**, have contributed significantly to the study of family history in Central West Virginia.

Lemuel **BAILEY** and Hannah **CLEMANS BAILEY** were the parents of Amanda Minerva **BAILEY**, who married Albert **KAYSER** September 26. 1867. Albert and Amanda Minerva’s son, Eva **KAYSER** was Barbara’s grandfather.

LETTER FROM A SURPRISED PATRON/MEMBER

by Mary **FRANCIS**

I attended a National Genealogical Society conference last spring and gave my name to the person working the DAR table. The next thing I knew, I was working on a DAR application. The ancestral line I worked on went through my 2nd great grandparents, Jacob **LANCE** and Sena **POST**. The DAR applications have gotten stricter in recent years and they really like to see original birth, marriage, and death certificates for each generation. Obviously when you go further back some of those records just don’t exist so we look for quality alternatives. Jacob and Sena were born in the early 1830’s so the best that can be done is to look for a parent’s will, a Bible, or older recognized books that recorded their births or a tombstone. They were married in 1853, and I thought perhaps I could find a marriage record. If not, I would have to settle for the 1860 census to prove the marriage. The book “Valentin **PFOST/POST** 1740-1800”, gives their marriage date as April 21, 1853 in Upshur County but the source for this date was given as “MRUC, n. pag.” What’s that? No one that I asked seemed to know either. The author, Doris Jean **POST POINSETT** must have found this date somewhere! So I visited the Upshur County court house but even after searching for misspelled names and incorrect dates, I could not find any marriage record. Their marriage had been posted on Barbour County rootsweb on the internet so I drove over to Philippi and checked those court house records but it wasn’t there either. Disappointed and feeling like it was not likely I would ever find the marriage record, I was in the HCPD library and told Patty **LESONDAK** about my frustrated search. She only had to go about three feet to a book

shelf and pulled out a paper folder that was entitled:

UPSHUR COUNTY Va. (W. Va.)

**Ministers' Marriage Returns
for
1851 - 1852 - 1853**

Now I was trying on to be too hopeful because I really didn't expect to find a record at HCPD that I couldn't find in two county seats or on Ancestry or FamilySearch. (Even with all of Patty's assurance that they have some amazing records on those shelves). Inside the folder was an index and I found Jacob **LANCE** and Cenia **POST**. I was delighted and excited as only another genealogist would understand. But I was still trepidacious because after all, this was just an index – not the record. The index sent us to Record 3-E. When I got to 3-E, the first names I saw were not the correct names. Momentary disappoint. Then I continued reading the scratchy writing and there it was!

Anyway, I can't put into words how appreciative I am to Patty and all the people who volunteer at HCPD. We have a truly valuable historical resource in that beautiful little old school house. I know there are so many other genealogical delights waiting to be found. Good luck hunting.

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This is to Certify that I joined in
 -wedlock Joshua Woods Jr. and Jemima Reger
 on the 14th Day of April 1853. -
 also Jacob Lancel and Cenia post on the 21st Day
 of April 1853. also John Dean Jr. and
 Salina Francis Marshall on the 4th Day of June
 1853. also Thomas Wile and Mary ~~Gregory~~
 Gregory on the 29th Day of June 1853.
 Elias Bennett

HCPD
 LIBRARY

Transcription: "This is to certify that I joined in wedlock Joshua **WOODS** Jr. and Jemima **REGER** on the 14th Day of April 1853 – also Jacob **LANCE** and Cenia **POST** on the 21st day of April 1853. Also John **DEAN** Jr. and Salina Francis **MARSHALL** on the 4th (?) day of June 1853. Also Thomas _____ and Mary Ann **GREGORY** on the 29th day of June 1853. Elias **BENNETT**

Anyway, I can't put into words how appreciative I am to Patty and all the people who volunteer at HCPD. We have a truly valuable historical resource in that beautiful little old school house. I know there are so many other genealogical delights waiting to be found. Good luck hunting.

CHANCERY RECORDS

An Underused Resource

by Bill HENDERSON

What is a Chancery Record? According to the Virginia Memory: Chancery Records Index FAQ, found at www.virginiamemory.com/collections/chancery/faq, "These types of court documents are useful when researching genealogical information and land or estate divisions and may contain correspondence, lists of heirs, or vital statistics, among other items. Cases in **chancery** often address estate and business disputes, debt, the resolution of land disputes, and divorce."

Older court houses record rooms sometimes have metal boxes (called "shoes") along the walls. I found some of these in the Nelson County Court House in Lovingston, Virginia many years ago. I opened them and found bits of paper tied with white twine. The boxes were not labeled AT ALL - no alphabets or dates.

Sometime thereafter the Library of Virginia came to that court house and removed those records with the intent to digitize them. *I WAITED 6 YEARS FOR THE JOB TO BE COMPLETED.* When they became available, I ordered several sets of those **CHANCERY** records for my surnames at a cost of several hundred dollars. Deposed information is sworn testimony accompanied by other documented information as needed to complete that case. I have touted Chancery records ever since because they are an underused source of documented family information.

Following is one of the cases which I acquired. I believe you will see its importance to genealogical research as you read through.

NELSON COUNTY CHANCERY CASE #1851-044

ROBERT HENDERSON & LUCINDA vs MILDRED LOBBAN, etc.

This case, although a property dispute, is mostly about local slavery practices. The purpose of this abstract is to uncover **HENDERSON** and **LOBBAN** genealogy and touch on slave names for later searchers. More detail was available but not gathered for this report.

This suit was filed on November 25, 1844 by Robert Clarke **HENDERSON** and his wife, Lucinda **LOBBAN HENDERSON** who apparently lived apart from the **LOBBAN** household and who believed that the **LOBBAN** children were taking advantage of terms of their parents deed and Will.

John **LOBBAN Senior**, Will was written on March 1, 1815 and proven in Court on August 22, 1822 with wife Elizabeth **LOBBAN**, children Milly, Susannah, Alexander, Rhoda, Jane, Lucy

January 6, 1827 Elizabeth's Deed of Gift conveyed to Lucy, Milly, Sussannah, Alexander H., Jane M., Rhoda slaves and their future increase Nancy, William, & Kitty

Elizabeth died June 27, 1835 a negro man named Henry remained in estate of John **LOBBAN** (plus other various items). Claim alleges that Milly, Rhoda, Susannah, Alexander H., and Jane lived with their mother, Elizabeth **LOBBAN**.

Jane (was dead by 11/25/1844 unmarried and without issue... the others held all of the property and slaves (one of the females had an increase) . Orator and oratrix want slaves all sold and money divided from crops raised and slave rentals.

The suit was answered on 9/25/1845.

Elizabeth died on June 27, 1835 and she still possessed the negro man called "Henry (or Harry)" [later determined to be a middle aged man].

Slave Nancy was more than 50 years of age, always sickly and not worth much. [She was later bought by Robert **HENDERSON**, Jr. (Uncle to the Plaintiff) at the slave sale on December 29, 1845 at Greenfield. The original bidder and purchaser was Plaintiff Robert C. **HENDERSON** but he had not established security requirements]

Harry was about 40

the boy Billy was about 13 [later, young negro man William]

girl Kitt was about 10 years old (unclear age) [later, Katharine a woman & two children].

Jane **LOBBAN** died January 4, 1840 - much indebted at her death, laid sick nearly one year

The defendants allege that nothing is due to **HENDERSON** and wife.

A copy of John **LOBBAN**'s Will was included in Case documentation.

My sons John, William, James & Jesse

Sons in law Jesse **MURRELL**, John **ROBINSON**, John **MURRELL**, and Martin **COPELAND**

My wife Elizabeth

Remaining divided among the following children, Milly, Susannah, Alexander, Rhoda, Jane and Lucy

Executors my friend Nathaniel **HARLOW**, Jr. and wife Elizabeth **LOBBAN**

Appears to have signed the Will.

Top of Will appears to say "Senior" and a note at bottom appears to state "Junior." [Senior would seem correct].

A copy of Elizabeth **LOBBAN**'s Deed of Gift of January 6, 1827 was also included in Case.

My children given and granted unto the said Mildred **LOBBAN**, Susannah S. **LOBBAN**, Alexander H. **LOBBAN**, James M. **LOBBAN**, Rhoda J. **LOBBAN**, Lucinda **HENDERSON** the following property - three negro slaves named Nancy, William, and Kitty, and not until after my death (she demanded a life interest). She signed with her "X" mark. Each of the children signed, including the earliest noted "Robert C. **HENDERSON**" signature.

It was presented and proved in Court on May 28, 1827.

A November 20, 1835 inventory and valuation statement referred to John **LOBBAN** "(the older)"

Depositions taken at Greenfield (northern Nelson County) on February 13, 1846 referred to "...the sale of the 3 negros the 29 day of Dec 1845..."

A deposee was asked 'what had been the situation of Robert **HENDERSON**' and replied "I have always thought he was hard pressed in money matters."

John G. **LOBBAN** was deposed on February 9, 1846 at Greenfield, Virginia as a witness for the defendants. Value of slaves as hires was discussed. Mr. **LOBBAN** had been a slaveholder since 1819. He moved from Albemarle County to Nelson County on January 4, 1842. He signed the deposition. Other individuals were questioned about slave values by year and hired worth to an owner.

An estate Slave Sale was ordered and was to be advertised for 4 weeks in the Lynchburg Virginian and the Charlottesville Advocate newspapers. It was held on December 29, 1845.

Money from the sale of the **LOBBAN** slaves was directed to be paid to the defendants. All of the parties in the suit were to bear the cost of the suit including various fees. Out of the Plaintiffs share they are to pay Uphia **HENDERSON**, Administratrix of William **HENDERSON**, deceased \$67.50 with interest from September 18, 1828 'til paid (and other charges). "... the remainder of the Plaintiffs share is to be paid to the Defendants it being acknowledged by the Plaintiffs that they are indebted to the Defendants a larger sum than the remainder of said share amounts to"

There was no previously observed mention of the money due to Uphia **HENDERSON** in the Case (perhaps missed in unclear handwriting) but the decree date might have been October 9, 1850 or perhaps in early 1851 since the Case is dated as 1851. Uphia **HENDERSON** was apparently living at that date. She was the step-mother of Plaintiff Robert Clarke **HENDERSON** but there is no listed reason for the Plaintiff to pay the amount due her instead of the Defendants.

The impending result of Chancery Case 1851-044 could be a large part of the reason that Robert Clarke **HENDERSON** and Lucinda **LOBBAN HENDERSON** left Nelson County, Virginia and moved to Lewis County (now West) Virginia. His signature in the record of a Lewis County estate sale in 1847 suggests that he was exploring the area after the ordered sale of the **LOBBAN** slaves. He and his family were enumerated in Lewis County in the Census of 1850.

Nelson County deed records list several transactions in the late 1840s where Robert Clarke **HENDERSON** gave up his interest in ownership of family acreage that had once belonged to his great-grandfather, John **HENDERSON** (d. 1800 Amherst County, Virginia).

1950 Lewis County Flood

by

Robert F. MCWHORTER

On a Saturday evening in June of 1950 (June 24, 1950) Don **LANCASTER**, Alice **DESSENT**, Melba **THORN**, June **GREEN** and I, all employees at Jackson's Mill, caught the City Lines Bus just outside the WVU Jackson's Mill 4-H Campground to go to Weston to see a movie. I was twenty years old and owned a motorcycle, but none of us had an automobile. It had been raining quite hard for several hours, but no flooding was reported at that time. Two of the girls lived in Weston and after the movie all the girls planned to stay in town for the rest of the weekend. After the movie Don and I went to the bus station for the return trip to the Mill and learned that the bus was not going to run due to high water. We called the taxi office and they reported that they could not go out of town in these conditions. It was still raining quite hard. This posed a problem for us because we were scheduled to work in the Jackson's Mill kitchen early the next morning.

Seemingly without alternatives, we checked into the Camden Hotel for the night and left a message to be called at five-O'clock the next morning, thinking that the flood situation would be over by that time. I awakened to see daylight showing through the windows and when I looked at my watch it was already eight o'clock. Of course I was perturbed and called the desk to ask why we had not been called. The person answering the phone identified himself as the hotel manager and asked if I had looked out the window, and reported that the town was flooded. When I looked at Main Street from our third floor window I saw that the water was nearly over several parked cars and the street was a sea of muddy water that was near the top of parking meters down the street from the hotel. I immediately tried calling Jackson's Mill to report what had happened, but the call would not go through.

Don and I then got dressed and, without shoes and the legs of our pants cut off, hurried down to inspect the flood. Only a few people were on the street. I remember seeing Bill **ADLER** at his store and a few people at Murphy's. A few were inside their places of businesses inspecting damages or moving merchandise to higher levels. We helped a few of these people on our way up the street. The only traffic movement was a large coal truck going up and down the street making waves that were unwelcomed by businesses and pedestrians alike. The truck was driven by "Mo" **HITESHEW** from Jackson's Mill. Later that morning we returned to the hotel and again tried calling the Mill. This time the call went through and it was answered by Uncle Charlie **HARTLEY**, the camp director. His voice revealed that he was excited by my call. He told me that my call was the first telephone contact they had since the previous night. He briefly described an emergency they were experiencing whereby an older man and his wife at Kennedy Station had been badly burned by a flood related fire and had been brought by boat to the Mill's Infirmary. He said they desperately needed some medical supplies to treat these folks and asked if I could find a way to get them from Weston to the Mill, which was about 4-5 miles away. I agreed to try. Of course it was all downstream, but with strong currents and the water over most of the bridges it was unlikely that a boat could get through. He knew that I was a strong swimmer from my lifeguarding duties, but neither of us knew what obstacles or safety conditions might be encountered. He then put Martha **COYNER**, the camp nurse, on the phone and she gave me a list of the medical items she needed, which included saline solution and several prescription medicines to treat burns and infections. Having just been up the street, I knew that Minter **RALSTON** was in his Drug Store. I went there again and gave him the list of medicines and he

proceeded to gather the needed items. We puzzled over a way to keep the medicine dry. Finally, he placed the medicines in 3-4 condoms, secured the open ends and put everything in a container that I could strap around my waist as to not inhibit my ability to swim if that became necessary—and it did. My friend, Don, was not a strong swimmer and decided to stay in Weston.

Upon leaving the pharmacy I hailed “Mo” **HITESHEW** in his coal truck and asked him if he could take me at least part of the way to the Mill. He agreed to try and I climbed up into his truck and we started down Main Street. We had not gone more than 6-8 blocks, near the (old) Weston Hospital, when the water became deeper and the current even stronger. The empty bed of the coal truck served as a float and the current deposited the truck against a utility pole—and that part of the trip was over. There were no boats operating on the river and I started wading, walking and swimming down Route 19 toward Jackson’s Mill. There were many places where I could walk on the side of the road, but many times the road was covered with water and I was forced to swim. It looked like an ocean of rapidly moving dark brown water. I remember stopping at my uncle Dyer **MCWHORTER**’s house on the Jackson’s Mill road for a bite to eat and a drink. They lived just across the road from the greenhouse which is about a mile from the Mill. The water was about 2 feet deep in their living room.

I finally got to the Jackson’s Mill bridge over the West Fork River and saw that it was completely under water, including the sidewalls. There were swirls of water indicating where the sides of the bridge were located. I was able to swim to the upstream one of these and walk-or wade- across to the Jackson’s Mill side. The water was only a few inches deep over this sidewall but much debris was floating rapidly downstream and I had to avoid being struck by this material, which consisted of almost anything that would float. I reasoned that if I fell off the ledge I might catch the one on the other side of the bridge, or if not, I could swim to shore on the Jackson’s Mill side of the river, although it might be some distance downstream. When I got across without incident, Uncle Charlie and Martha were waiting for the medical supplies. I then went to bed for a much needed nap and did not go to work that day.

The entire trip took about three or four hours. The water was halfway up on the entrance door into the old mill, and a black line was later painted on the door indicating the high-water level of the 1950 flood. That line remained on the door for many years. Mission accomplished, and the burn victims were moved to the Weston City Hospital as soon as the water receded and it was reported that they both made a full recovery.

Later newspaper reports revealed that the flood ripped loose a 450,000 gallon gas tank at the Hope Gas facility at Kennedy Station which apparently was the source of the fire that burned the couple that was brought to the Jackson's Mill 4-H Camp. One story indicated that the Hope Gas Co. flood damage at Kennedy Station was more than one million dollars and the town of Weston's damages were estimated to be two million dollars. This flood in central West Virginia was described as one of the worst floods on record and resulted in the loss of numerous lives—but none in the Weston area that I recall.

HISTORY OF THE ROCKFORD COMMUNITY

Research paper by Betsy LAW, 1978

South Harrison High School Junior English, Miss Martha HUDKINS, teacher

It is hard to believe when we look at the present-day Rockford that at one time the whole country was largely covered with virgin forest. In the early eighteenth century the Indians saw the advantages of this country and in the early nineteenth century the white man began to realize the benefits of living in this section of the country. Rockford, during the second half of the nineteenth century, was a great deal larger than Lost Creek. During this time Rockford was located on several maps in history books – due to it being very prosperous. Lost Creek was not even mentioned on the maps. Only when the railroad came to Lost Creek did the promising business in Rockford begin to decline.

In the early days of travel in place of building a bridge across a stream, a search was made for a place where the water was shallow enough to allow the safe crossing of horses and wagons. Such a place was called a ford, and in this community the only shallows were so rocky that they were designated as the Rocky-fords when people were directing travel of strangers as the best course. This in time was shortened to Rockford and the community still bears that name.²

Various Indian tribes started making hunting expeditions into the section of the country now known as the Rockford community in 1708 and 1709. The Delaware, Mingo, and Wyandotte tribes came in search of game which was in abundance before the white man settled. The Indians passed through this country by means of foot paths which were either animal trails or tomahawk-cleared paths. Their regular camping ground was on the south side of the lane leading to the home of Lewis C. Swisher. The ground in that particular place had been burned black by the intense heat of their many campfires.³

An Indian mound is located in A.W. **RANDOLPH**'s field where his barn stands. The mound was opened, the date for which was never located. Found inside were the bones of a human body, which included a leg, an arm, and a skull. A tomahawk, shells and other Indian implements were taken from the mound. Another Indian mound in the area is located on Edison Law's farm and another being on the Jake Run Road. There is no record of where these mounds have been opened.

In the fields around the mound arrowheads, flint, and spearheads have been found. Evidence of Indian life can be found on the farm of Burgett **ALLMAN** and on his sister-in-law's farm also.

A.W. **RANDOLPH**'s barn is standing on a rock known as Flat Rock. Symbols of Indian writing are still visible. A turkey and a turtle are carved on the rock. It is supposedly a message left in picture writing by one Indian tribe for another.⁴

During 1777 Indians passed through this section of the country for the purpose of raids on the white settlers. Many times they returned with captives. In June 1777, the Indians chose the **GRIGSBY** family of Gnatty Creek. One evening when Charles was not home the Indians raided the cabin at dusk, taking anything and everything that was valuable and that they could carry. They destroyed everything that they couldn't take with them. Mrs. **GRIGSBY** and her two

² "History of Rockford", compiled by Alice A. **REED**, 1933-34

³ Ibid

⁴ "History of Rockford", compiled by Alice A. **REED**, 1933-34

children⁵ were abducted. The Indians started with them toward the Ohio River following Gnatty Creek to the mouth of Rooting Creek, then continued on to what is now known as Grigsby Run and thence down Rice's Run to Lost Creek.⁶ Mr. **GRIGSBY** returned home and saw the state that the house was in. Guessing what had happened, he assembled some of his neighbors in hopes of freeing his wife and children from them hands of the Indians. Upon following the Indians approximately six miles, they found Mrs. **GRIGSBY** and her younger children where they had been killed and scalped.

The wp,am being in delicate health and the child entirely helpless were impediments to a rapid and fearing pursuit they murdered them in order to rid themselves of the encumbrance.

Two of the volunteers stayed behind to bury the two while the others went in search of the Indians. The Indians split up and they lost their trail. Mrs. **GRIGSBY** and her child are buried on a hill west of Lost Creek on the Charley **POST** farm. Their graves are located near the cattle barn.⁷

Various attempts have been made to establish a complete record of the early events of Rockford, but so far as can be ascertained there never were any white people killed by Indians within the present boundary lines of Rockford community.⁸

While wild creatures of the wood and an occasional Indian were the only living creatures in or near the present site of Lost Creek, an exploring party of three men was sent out from Wheeling, the only post of civilization in Western Virginia. They left wheeling in the early spring and journeyed onward until they came to Blake school near Lost Creek. They disagreed as to the direction they should take and since an agreement could not be reached, two of the party traveled onward in the direction of Buckhannon while the third turned his footsteps toward the present site of Rockford. When fall came, the two men returned to Wheeling, but the third member of the party never returned. The following spring when another party of explorers was sent out they found the bones of a white man on the dividing ridge at the head of a little creek that is now known as Lost Creek. This was believed to have been the man who deserted the party of explorers the previous spring.⁹

Peter **SWISHER** II and his family moved from Pennsylvania and settled on Lost Creek in Harrison County, (West) Virginia sometime between 1781 and 1785. In 1785, he requested the Virginia Surveyor's Office at Clarksburg to survey his Lost Creek claim. Peter **SWISHER** received his patent to 365 acres near the present village of Rockford on Lost Creek in 1788 "in right of settlement".¹⁰

When Peter **SWISHER** II settled here in 1785 the land would have seemed much different from the land that they saw in Pennsylvania, probably being covered mostly with forest. Scattered farmsteads in the 1785 wilderness meant that Peter had neighbors to help him clear a

⁵ In Alice Reed's compilation of the "History of Rockford" she said that Mrs. Grigsby had only one child that the Indians took but according to: Henry **HAYMOND**, History of Harrison County, (Morgantown, 1910), pp. 62-63; History of Clarksburg and Harrison County from the Earliest Settlement to the Present Time, p. 6; and Alexander Scott **WITHERS**, Chronicles of Border Warfare, ed. By Reuben Gold **THWAITES**, (Parsons, McClain Printing Co., 1961), p. 217 Mrs. Charles **GRIGSBY** had two children abducted by the Indians.

⁶ "History of Rockford", compiled by Alice A. **REED**, 1933-34

⁷ "History of Rockford", compiled by Alice A. **REED**, 1933-34

⁸ Ibid

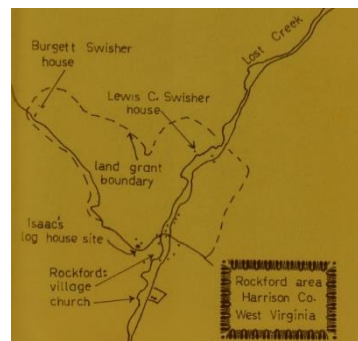
⁹ Reflections of Lost Creek, collected and compiled by Willa **CURRY**, 1937, p. 11

¹⁰ Robert Edward **SWISHER**, The Swisher Family of Harrison and Lewis Counties, W.Va., (Richmond, 1974), p. 25; Virginia Land Grants, Book 17, p. 157, at the Archives of the Virginia State Library; "in right of settlement" is so called because a settler staked his claim by deadening trees near a spring and by cutting his name into trees.

site for his cabin and crops.

Records of Harrison County show that Peter deeded 365 acres of land to his son Isaac on February 28, 1828. Peter and his wife Mary (**WAGGONER**) **SWISHER** lived with Isaac until their death. Isaac's log house stood until 1939 when it had to be torn down because it was eaten up with termites. The land that his cabin was on is now part of the French **YOUNG** farm. The enormous cut stone used as a hearth in Isaac's house is now the back stoop of French **YOUNG**'s house.

This map shows the area around Rockford which had at different times been owned by Isaac Swisher's descendants. Within this indicated region lied the land of Peter II's original grant. Also in this area are Lewis C. Swisher and Burgett **SWISHER**'s farms. These are present-day descendants of Isaac. Lewis Swisher has in his ownership a 1787 grant, written on sheepskin, made out of 2000 acres to Hugh Ely, Jr. as indicated on the patent, the land was obtained by the purchase of a Land Office Treasury Warrant. It would appear that Ely was a speculator who sold his Lost Creek holding to some ancestor of Lewis C. **SWISHER**.¹¹



By the United States Census returns for Harrison County, Virginia for the years 1820 and 1830 we know that Peter II and son Isaac did own a few slaves. In 1820 Isaac owned one male slave between 14 and 26. He also owned one female slave between the ages of 14 and 26. In 1830 Isaac owned one male slave between 24 and 36 and Peter II owned one female between 10 and 24. As Peter lived with son Isaac by this time, one might assume that the two black people they owned lived together as man and wife.¹²

Between 1809 and 1822 Isaac **SWISHER**, Peter **SWISHER** II's son, settled on the land now comprising the farm owned by Cleo **BUTCHER**. Allen **LEWIS**, being one of the earliest settlers laid claim to a 920 acre farm at the head of Lost Creek where Ross **LEWIS** now lives. Allen and some of his early descendants are buried on this farm. In 1819 Betty **LEWIS** came and in 1822 S. **LEWIS** settled on a 194.5 acre farm. Another person that had a large farm was J.D. **LEWIS** who settled in the Rockford community in 1825 and owned 1025 acres of land. **LEWIS** was a good farmer, a first class distiller of apple brandy and lived near where the home of Bernice **TALBOTT** is now located. Another well-known tiller of the soil that settled on 349 acres in 1827 was L.D. **SWISHER**. N.A. **DAWSON** came in 1830 and lived on a 47 acre farm. After a long period of seventeen years T.C. **JOHNSON** decided to call Rockford his home. On top of having a 147 acre farm he gained fame as a country merchant. He was also a Notary Public. Other merchants established businesses in 1848 and 1851, the first being J.C. **DAWSON** and his brother claiming a 148 acre farm and the second being E.A. **COOKMAN** who owned 99 acres. All of these merchants were dealers in dry goods, groceries, hats, caps, boots, shoes, hardware, notions, tobacco, cigars, canned goods, queens ware, glassware, wood and willow-ware, tin ware and all goods usually kept in a first-class country store.

Staking claim on 151.5 acres of land in 1855 was J.C. **BISHOP**, a farmer and school master. S.C. **BISHOP** claimed 197 acres in 1861. The next inhabitant was N.V. Dawson who in 1867 settled on a farm of 47 acres. Also in 1867 W.W. **BISHOP** settled. He was another school teacher. W.M. **TALBOTT** took up residence in 1875 on a 70 acre farm. He was a leading man

¹¹ Robert Edward **SWISHER**, The Swisher Family of Harrison and Lewis Counties, W.Va., (Richmond, 1974), p. 31

¹² Ibid, pp. 31-32

in the community serving as school trustee for a number of years. He was the owner of the celebrated Norman Stallion, Prince Edward and his full brother Black Hawk. Wesley M. Bird was a farmer living in the Rockford community. Another early settler was Irvin Jett, who later became the owner of a Harness shop.

Before the Civil War Muster days were held at Rockford where the soldiers went through manual of arms practice.¹³

Lorenzo D. **SWISHER** served as Justice of the Peace for a period of nine years, from 1867 to 1876.

A community the size of Rockford was a probable place in those days for an up-and-coming country doctor. Doctor **GRANT**, being an early physician, answered all calls of the people at any hour of the day. Every now and then a few pills and a good word of advice were all the medicine needed. Dr. **BUTNERS** was the second doctor. The third medical practitioner in Rockford was Dr. O.T. **BOND**.

He is still remembered with words of love and praise by the residents of Rockford Community.¹⁴

Also shown on an early Rockford map was Dr. W.A. **CHARTER**.

During the nineteenth century the trails of travel became roads. Accordingly the roads improved to permit the passing of the wagons. Whether traveling by foot, on horseback, in wagons or in buggies, the people were bound to find a way to where they were going. During the late nineteenth century other methods of transportation became available making travel safer and quicker.

No record has been found of when the Rockford Mill was first built but Isaac **SWISHER** was given 365 acres on which he constructed the mill. When Isaac died in 1854, his lands were passé don to his children Lloyd Dow, Robert, Lemuel, Owen T., Isaac F, Sophia, Olive, Sarah, Mary and Emily and his grandchildren – children of the deceased son Lewis Augustus – Burgett, Elizabeth and Marsden. The children at that time made mutual partition of the lands that they owned. The mill plus fifteen acres of land were assigned to his daughter Sophia **BOND** who in 1867 sold it to her brother Owen Tom **SWISHER**. In May 1867 Tom sold it to Isaac **COX** and **FESTUS SNIDER**.

COX and **SNIDER** rebuilt the mill and installed a steam engine. Now it was both a water and a steam mill. Due to large debts they were forced to sell the mill.

Thomas **RADCLIFF** and William N. **MORRIS** bought the Mill in 1871. **RADCLIFF** then sold his interest to Morris in 1873. In February 1877 **MORRIS** sold it to Jacob **DICKS**, who added a carding machine then resold it to Thomas **RADCLIFF**. **RADCLIFF**, having to pay a chancery suit, was forced to give up his mill. In 1880 the mill was sold to Nathan J. **COPLIN**. **COPLIN** operated the mill until December, 1882 when he sold it to Levi Leonard, his brother-in-law. Floyd, Levi's son was put in charge of the mill.

Charles and Isaac **BOND** were the hired help in the mill. In 1884, the mill was destroyed by fire, and on March 26, 1885 Leonard sold the mill site to Adam D. **COOKMAN**.

COOKMAN rebuilt the mill and equipped it with the "roller process" for making flour. (This was the second roller process flour mill in the state.) William B. **COOKMAN**, Adam's son, worked in the mill, and eventually took charge. Charles and Isaac **BOND** were also

¹³ Reflections of Lost Creek, collected and compiled by Willa Curry, 1937, p. 13

¹⁴ "History of Rockford", compiled by Alice A. Reed, 1933-34

employed. “White Lily” was the trade mark of his flour. In May 1890 William B., getting permission from Adam, tore down the mill and moved it to Lost Creek, where business would grow because of the railroad coming to Lost Creek.

There has been some reference to a mill a mile from Rockford. The date for erection is unknown but it is said to have fulminated around 1920. Curtis **NUTTER** and Mr. **PRINGLE** were killed in the sawmill explosion. This mill was near the site of Orlie and Eugenia **MILLS** property.

The first Post Office was kept in a building owned by Marshal **COOKMAN**, who was both postmaster and merchant. The building was then used as a store operated by G. W. **NETZER**.

Chap **JOHNSON** had a store located just across the creek beside Doctor O.T. **BOND**’s residence. There was a boardwalk and footbridge connecting it with the John **PROPST**’s Blacksmith shop. Beside it was Irvin **JETT**’s harness Shop and beside it was Hyson **BURROUGHS** General Store. Later on Jim **ALKIRE** bought the store and made it into a skating rink. It was later torn down and **ALKIRE** built the house that is still there on the corner of the road. Mr. A.S. **HOLBERT** had the biggest store – having clothes, hardware and groceries. It burned down and on the site now is the old Methodist Protestant Parsonage.

It is said that a preacher’s wife had a hat shop in Rockford also. The Post Office was on property now owned by John **WIANT** and operated by Darrius **MORRIS**.

Mrs. Myrtle **FOGG**, still living in Rockford, and her husband, Creed, also had a store at Rockford. Their store location was torn down in 1977. They kept this store up until in the 1960’s.

Rockford also had a tannery and a Masonic Hall during the nineteenth century.

The grist mill is where the community building now stands. The mill race near-by is still discernible. The Rockford Farm Women held an Easter Bazaar and social in the schoolhouse March 29, 1929 and cleared \$42.00. In August all the members of the club voted to pay \$5 each into the Community Building Fund. The blocks for the building were ordered in September 1929. The total cost of the building was \$1,446.66 with most of the labor donated. The building was dedicated October 24, 1932.

The first brick house in Rockford was A.W. **RANDOLPH**’s house.

The first institution of learning in the community was the traditional little one room school house located on the land of Mrs. Lilly **VAN HORN**. It stood near the Baptist church, and was attended by all the young people of the community. When a larger building was necessary to meet the needs of the growing community a site was selected across the road, opposite the old one, and the second school building was erected where a volleyball court was located. The third school house, the one which stood until around 1934 is just above the old volleyball court.¹⁵

The school at Rockford was called the Valley School. Both the Valley and Blake Schools held pie socials to raise money to buy books and supplies. Some of the subjects taught were: Geography, Algebra, Civil Government, History, Reading, Spelling, etc. It was usually First through Eighth grades. Believed to have been built the Blake School, located about one and half miles from Rockford, is still standing. Both were one roomed. The Blake school’s former stove can be evidenced as being in the center of the building.

During the late nineteenth century, tournaments were held at Rockford in which men rode horses, shooting spears through rings. Prizes were given to the winners. It was traditional for

¹⁵ “History of Rockford”, compiled by Alice A. Reed, 1933-34

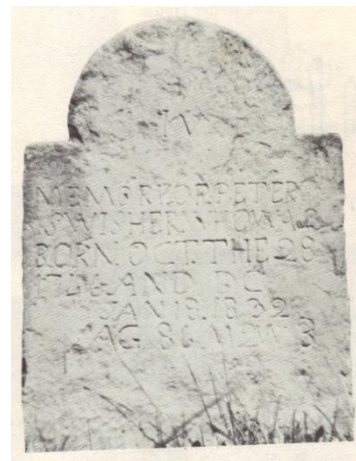
each winner to give his prize to his best girl.

The religious element of community life was early recognized by these hardy pioneers and a church of the Baptist Denomination was erected on the farm of Mrs. Lilly **VAN HORN**. As customary in those days, it was built near the school house.¹⁶

Earliest records uncovered by the Reverent I.A. **BARNES** in compiling the history of the Methodist Protestant Church show that mention was made of a **KNICELY** appointment on Lost Creek in the Hacker Creek circuit books. There was some reference, too, of a **KNICELY** meeting house in 1836. Location of what was possibly the **KNICELY** residence is not known. However, further reference was made to a **SWISHER** appointment and this is believed to be the residence of Isaac Francis **SWISHER** which was a log house located on the French Young meadow. The first building used solely for worship is believed to have been a log structure erected in 1836. Older folks of this section and the arrangement of the early graves, place its location at the lower corner of the cemetery.¹⁷

In 1855 a frame church was erected to replace the log church. This church served the community for years but was destroyed by fire, forcing the people to consider a new building for worship.

The planning and completion of the present church took place over seven years. First mention of it is dated 1884 and the corner stone is dated 1891. Brick for the church was burned in kilns located in the field adjoining the cemetery. The walls of the church are a foot thick of solid brick. A noted stone mason, Morton Stout cut the stone for the foundation and probably for the walls around the front of the driveway. The exact date of the dedication of the church is unknown. The earliest Sunday school record is dated April 8, 1888 with J.I. Alexander as the Superintendent. At that time, Sunday school started at 9 a.m. with the average attendance 90% of the 102 membership. (In 1880, J.I. Alexander became Notary Public.)



The oldest legible marker at the Rockford Cemetery is Peter **SWISHER II** who died in 1832. An additional two acres of land was secured from Benjamin and Martha **STOUT** in 1901 for the cost of \$138.63 for more cemetery use.

Down through the ages Rockford has changed greatly. The Masonic Hall, the saw and grist mills, the tannery, the Baptist church, the school houses (with the exception of the Blake School) have all been discontinued from the Rockford Community. Presently there are no stores in Rockford. The Community Building is used often by the Rockford Homemaker's Club, formerly the Farm Women, and also by the Rockford Rockets 4-H club which has been in the community for a number of years. Occasional social gatherings are held here also.

Rockford prospered during the nineteenth century having many businesses and an ever growing population. At the turn of the century, because of the location of the railroad at Lost creek, Rockford became less important for the businessman's view. Even so, many merchants remained for many years. Now, Rockford is still growing in population as a residential area.

Rockford was at one time larger than Lost Creek, but presently Lost Creek is the larger of the two. Rockford has always been an unincorporated town; however, it was once a post office and the name may be found on early maps of West Virginia.

¹⁶ Ibid

¹⁷ The Rockford Methodist church, First One Hundred Years – 1855-1955

QUERIES

1. **CAPPER FAMILY:** Looking for information on William Bradbury **CAPPER**, born 18 Aug. 1886, Frederick County, VA, died 2 Nov. 1926 in **DAVIS** Tucker County, WV., son of Charles and Nancy Annie **CAPPER**. William's wife was Laura Emily **CHAPMAN CAPPER**, born 9 Nov. 1892 in Webster County, died 11 Dec. 1937 while living at Davis, Tucker County, WV, daughter of Currence and Nancy **DODRILL CHAPMAN**. They had two sons, Emmett and Harry **CAPPER**. I would especially like a picture of William and Laura **CAPPER** and sons Emmett and Harry. Leonard **DAVIS**, 1765 Fiddler's Ridge Drive, Fleming Island, FL 32003. Email: lhDavis8539@bellsouth.net (use lower case letters)
2. My dad's mother was Hazel **TUTTLE SCHOOLCRAFT MARKS**, if anyone has info on the **TUTTLE** family they would like to share or any family photos that would be great I have hit a few dead ends on her family, her dad Jesse **TUTTLE** took his mom's maiden name not his father's **CRITCHFIELD**. not sure why. Thanks. Mary **SCHOOLCRAFT CHENOWETH**
3. I am looking for the father of my great great grandfather Solomon Burk **TOWNSEND** b 1795 Bath County VA. Wife Margaret **HACKER**. Mother is Elizabeth **ALLEN**. Solomon B's father is an unknown **BURK**. Solomon,s mother was married to Solomon **TOWNSEND**,he was involved with other women so I guess she felt she could do the same and became involved with a Burk. I had my DNA done and most of it points to the **BURK BURKE, BURKS** line. I have been in contact with a Philip Wayne **TOWNSEND** and he is assuming that Solomon B's father was a Thomas **BURK**. Thomas A **TOWNSEND** (Tom), 79 Ferris Lane, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603-4105 tomtownsend@prodigy.net
4. Seeking information on William **RATCLIFF**. He was born about 1739 in Hampshire County, (W)VA. He was married to Deborah Susannah **HUGHES**. They had a daughter, Susannah, who married Samuel **STALNAKER**. Monique **FOWLER**, P. O. Box 73213, Fort Bragg, NC 28307
5. Searching for information on the parents of **Mary Jane HORNER**, born 1862 in Marion County, WV. Mary Jane **HORNER** was adopted by Moses & Rebecca **BARTRUG** in Wetzel County. Her death certificate lists her father as U.R. **HORNER**. The mother's name is not listed. We are searching for the missing link. Monique **FOWLER**, P. O. Box 73213, Fort Bragg, NC 28307
6. Does anyone have birth, marriage, death/burial or other information on the following people who lived in Gilmer County in the early 1800's?
 - a. Thomas (W.?) **HOLBERT**, b.1782, Harrison Co. or Randolph Co., VA; m. 24 Dec 1801 to (Mary ?) Jane **BURROWS**, in Randolph Co. or Frederick Co., VA; d. 8 Feb 1833/1857, Lewis Co. or Marion Co., VA; burial - Holbert Cemetery,

Gilmer Co., VA. (Mary ?) Jane **BURROWS HOLBERT**, b. 1777, Alexandria, VA or MD, d. 25 Aug 1850, Gilmer Co., VA; burial - Holbert Cemetery, Gilmer Co., VA.

- b. Archibald **DAVISSON BURROWS/BURRIS**, b. ca. 1790, Ireland; m. ca. 1820 to Mary **HOLBERT**, dau. of Thomas & Jane **HOLBERT**; and d. 1838, Ritchie Co., VA. Mary **HOLBERT BURROWS**, b. 1804-1810, Alexandria, VA or MD, m. ca. 1820, d. after 1860, Calhoun Co., VA; burial - Old Bethlehem Cemetery, Calhoun Co., WV
- c. Archibald and Mary **BURROWS** were my 3rd Great Grandparents. Thomas and Jane **HOLBERT** were my 4th Great Grandparents. According to family lore, Archibald was actually a **DAVISSON**, a Scotch-Irishman who was to be hanged in England as a revolutionary. He stowed away on a ship to America with the help of the ship's captain. Supposedly, he had two or more brothers on the same ship, who separated when they reached America, never to see each other again. Also, on the same ship was a sister, who later married an Englishman, and died at sea when the ship sank as they were returning to England.

Archibald was said to have taken the maiden name of Mary's mother Jane **BURRIS/BURROWS HOLBERT** when he married Mary. Archibald was a millwright and was said to have died in 1838 in Ritchie Co., VA where he had rebuilt Webb's Mill. Supposedly, he was buried in a cemetery near Smithville, Ritchie Co., VA. His grave has not been found. His estate settlement was recorded in Lewis Co., VA in March 1838.

Several queries come to mind: Where were the four people mentioned above born? Are there any records of Archibald's work as a millwright? Who were Thomas and Elizabeth parents? Thanks for any help!

Sandy **WILSON**, 859 Virginia Drive, Hudson, OH 44236-3776

WilsonWilson1234@aol.com

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